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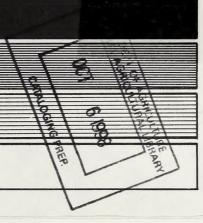
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The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS) collects data for the domestic agricultural economy and documents agriculture-related information, domestic and international, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It carries out research projects related to food and nutrition, cooperatives, natural resources, and rural development. It provides technical assistance to agricultural cooperatives.

ESCS provides objective and timely economic and statistical information for farmers, government policy-makers, consumers, agribusiness firms, cooperatives, rural dwellers, and other concerned citizens. This work falls into the three broad areas: cooperatives, statistics, and economics.

COOPERATIVES

Through cooperatives, farmers jointly purchase production supplies, process and market their products, and obtain farm-related services. The Cooperatives unit of ESCS provides research and technical and educational assistance to help farmer cooperatives operate efficiently.

Technical assistance in cooperative organization and operation is provided on request by individual farmers and cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives. Results of research on financial, organizational, legal, and economic aspects of farmer cooperatives are distributed through various publications and periodicals.

STATISTICS

The Statistics unit of ESCS collects data on crops, livestock, poultry, dairy, prices, and labor, and publishes the official USDA State and national estimates through the Crop Reporting Board. The 44 field offices serving the 50 States also collect local information on acreages and yields, production, and weather.

This information, gathered by mail and telephone surveys, personal interviews, and in-the-field observation, is used by virtually every agriculture-related group: farmers working out planting, breeding, feeding, and marketing programs; government policymakers; food processors and commodity buyers; and consumers.

ECONOMICS

and Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture Economics, Statistics,

The Economics area of ESCS does research and analysis covering various topics related to agriculture and rural America.

Production and marketing of major commodities is one area of study. Analysts make long-range projections for supply, demand, and use of specific crops, dairy products, or livestock.

Another major area of research is foreign agriculture and trade. Economists assess foreign developments and agricultural policies to determine their impact on U.S. foreign agricultural trade.

Use, conservation, and development of natural resources as they affect economic growth are also covered. Research may center on the impact of environmental curbs on food production, for example, or the use of land and water in agriculture.

ESCS economists also examine rural population, employment, and housing trends, and rural people's economic adjustment problems.

Performance of the agricultural industry, including the production, processing, and marketing sectors is another important area of research. Analysts gather economic information in these areas for the use of consumers and those formulating food and fiber policies.

PUBLICATIONS AND SERVICES

ESCS issues hundreds of reports, newsletters, and bulletins each year on the latest agriculture-related topics and research. Subscriptions to the major periodicals listed below are available through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, D.C. 20402.

The monthly FARMER COOPERATIVES magazine features articles about farmer cooperative technical and research projects and examines current cooperative issues. Free to cooperative members and others working directly with cooperatives; others may subscribe through GPO at the above address (\$10.10 per year; \$12.65 foreign).

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION examines current trends and research in agriculture, featuring a tabular summary of key agricultural statistics and review of economic and marketing developments affecting farming. Free to active crop reporters. Single free copies of the report, published 11 times a year, are available to others from ESCS Information, Room 5855-South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. To subscribe (\$5 a year; \$6.25 foreign), contact GPO.

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BULLETINS summarize weather and its previous week by States. Order through Office, Room 1258, USDA, Washington, effects on crops and farm progress the the Agricultural Climatology Service WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP D.C. 20250; \$13 annually.

situation reports and others are available free through ESCS Information, Room 0054-South, USDA, Washngton, D.C. 20250, as is a Farmers Cooperative Publi-1978," describing regularly issued commodity and cation catalog listing more than 175 cooperative Copies of the ESCS publication, "Periodicals reports and educational bulletins.

The following reports are also available at the above address unless otherwise indicated. **OUTLOOK AND SITUATION REPORTS** in the monthly Agricultural Outlook mag throughout a crop year and are updated azine. The reports analyze supply and demand, price, and outlook for cotton for individual commodities are issued and wool, dairy products, fats boultry and eggs, rice, sugar ar feed, fertilizer, fruits, livestock

eners, tobacco, vegetables, and wheat. See 'Periodicals 1978" for a calendar of issue dates for situation reports on the above commodities

BULLETINS are published through ESCS yearly, covering virtually all topics of agrirural development, and assistance to coop eratives. The latest research publications Approximately 175 various RESEARCH reports are available through ESCS Infor-REPORTS, STATISTICAL BULLETINS production, marketing, natural resources NDEX; single free copies of the research cultural research, including commodity and COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL are highlighted in the monthly FARM mation.

ESCS Crop Reporting Board, Room 0005, The 1978 CROP REPORTING BOARD mates on production, stocks, and prices CATALOG, outlining reports of estiof commodities and the release dates of the reports, is available free from the JSDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

To subscribe, send your name and address FARMERS' NEWSLETTERS, designed seeds, cotton, wheat, livestock, and feed. marketing decisions, are issued free at to ESCS Information, indicating which to help farmers make production and critical times during a crop year for oilnewsletter you wish to receive.

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Washington, D.C. time. Call toll-free (800) ivestock, and farm economic informafeaturing 60 seconds of the latest crop, THE FARMER'S NEWSLINE report, tion, is changed each weekday at 4 p.m. 124-7964

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